

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY IO/TRC:WADIAMANTI:BGR
APPROVED BY IO/TRC - W.A. DIAMANTI
USCG/DOT:SWALLACE
EB/TCA/MA:CTAYLOR
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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, EWWT, IMCO, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY FOR ELECTION TO THE
IMCO COUNCIL

REF: MONROVIA 5467

1.DEPT. APPRECIATES THE VERY USEFUL REPORTING CONTAINED IN
REFTEL. DEPT. CONCURS WITH THE EMBASSY THAT "USG AND GOL
ARE HEADED ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH REGARD TO CATEGORY
A-- SEAT ON THE IMCO COUNCIL."

2. DIAMANTI OF DEPT. AND ADMIRAL WALLACE OF DOT HAVE
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DISCUSSED THE ELECTION AND ITS POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES WITH
LININGER IN WASHINGTON, AND DIAMANTI HELD LONG DISCUSSION
ON SAME SUBJECT WITH GERALD COOPER AT IMCO IN LONDON.
IT SEEMS THAT LIBERIA HAS "LOCKED ITSELF IN" BY ITS
WORLDWIDE CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION TO COUNCIL IN CATEGORY A.
OUR BEST JUDGMENT IS THAT LIBERIA WILL FIND IT POLITICALLY
UNACCEPTABLE TO WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDACY AT THIS POINT.

ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO VALIDITY IN THE ALLEGATION THAT LIBERIA IS "JUST ANOTHER VOICE FOR THE U.S. SHIPOWNERS," WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS THE TYPE OF ALLEGATION THAT WILL BE MADE BY SOME STATES IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR ELECTION TO THE COUNCIL.

3. CONCERNING LIBERIA'S INABILITY TO WITHDRAW ONLY CONTRARY INDICATION WAS AUGUST 8 CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OFFICER AND ARCHIBALD STEWART OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL SERVICES, WHO WAS MEMBER OF LIBERIAN OBSERVER DELEGATION TO LAST COUNCIL SESSION. STEWART EXPRESSED VIEW THAT "NIGERIAN FORMULA" WHICH WOULD ASSIGN RELATIVELY PERMANENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATION WITH CATEGORY C TO CERTAIN LDCS ON GEOGRAPHICAL BASIS AND TONNAGE WOULD PROVIDE AN "OUT" WHICH AT LEAST SOME ELEMENTS IN GOL ARE SEEKING. STEWART SAID THAT WORDING OF NIGERIAN FORMULA WOULD MAKE IT ALMOST AUTOMATIC THAT LIBERIA WOULD RECEIVE REGIONAL SEAT, AND STEWART BELIEVED THERE HAD BEEN CO-OPERATION BETWEEN NIGERIA (CAPT. AGATE) AND LIBERIA IN DEVELOPING THIS PROPOSAL. DEPARTMENT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER STEWART'S VIEWS REFLECT THOSE OF ANY SEGMENT OF GOL, BUT THEY WERE PRESENTED AS MORE THAN OFF-THE-CUFF REMARKS. (DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EVALUATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE OF WHETHER USE OF NIGERIAN FORMULA AS "OUT" FROM CONFRONTATION WITH US OVER CATEGORY A SEAT IS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY ANY ELEMENT OF GOL.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. LIBERIA'S ARGUMENT THAT SHE PAYS THE LARGEST SINGLE ASSESSMENT TO THE IMCO BUDGET AND HAS NEVER BEEN SEATED ON THE COUNCIL IS A STRONG ONE WHICH MIGHT HAVE EMOTIONAL APPEAL PARTICULARLY TO LDCS WHO HAVE ALSO NOT SERVED ON THE COUNCIL. THE U.S. DELEGATION IS BASING ITS CAMPAIGN FOR REELECTION ON THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE PROVIDED TO IMCO BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD AND THE AMOUNT OF WORK PERFORMED BY U.S. DELEGATIONS WEEK IN AND WEEK OUT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

WE HOPE AND EXPECT THAT CONSCIENTIOUS GOVERNMENTS WILL APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE, FOR THE ORGANIZATION, OF THE REELECTION OF THE U.S. TO THE COUNCIL. THE U.S. WILL CONDUCT A VIGOROUS BUT CLEAN CAMPAIGN, WHICH OF NECESSITY WILL IMPACT MOST HEAVILY AGAINST LIBERIA'S CANDIDACY.

5. LIBERIANS SEEM TO HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT GREECE OR NORWAY MIGHT BE THE "ODD MAN OUT" IN CATEGORY A. DEPARTMENTAL AND COAST GUARD OFFICERS WHO FOLLOW IMCO DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT AGREE. FIRST FOUR SEATS IN CATEGORY A WILL GO TO NORWAY, JAPAN, UK, AND GREECE. FIFTH AND SIX SEATS WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG US, USSR, AND LIBERIA. SINCE

LIBERIANS FAILED TO GET THE QUESTION OF IMCO ELECTION PUT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE LIBREVILLE MEETING OF THE OAU, WE DOUBT THAT LIBERIA WILL COME TO THE NOVEMBER ASSEMBLY WITH THE "AFRICAN" OR "GROUP OF '77" VOTES SECURELY IN HAND.

6. WE TRIED TO AVOID THIS SITUATION FROM ARISING BY OFFERING TO SUPPORT LIBERIA IN CATEGORY C WHERE THERE WILL BE TWELVE SEATS. LIBERIA REFUSED OUR OFFER AND IT IS NOW TOO LATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SWITCH CATEGORIES AS SUGGESTED BY GERALD COOPER, AND IN ANY CASE, KEEN COMPETITION FOR CATEGORY B SEATS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR USG TO SWITCH TO THAT CATEGORY.

7. IT MIGHT BE CLOSE, BUT WE EXPECT TO BE REELECTED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COUNCIL IN CATEGORY A. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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